



# Forest Chatter

Issue 1, December 2011 BOS Australia: 02 9011 5455 • PO Box 3916, Mosman NSW 2088

Welcome to our first edition of Forest chatter. You may recall some time ago, we wanted to change our newsletter name from Grapevine to something more appropriate.

Many of you gave great suggestions, and it took much deliberation to pick a name that is more in line with our orange friends, what they do, and where they live.

So... welcome! We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter as much as we love letting you know what's happening.

## From the President...

Dear members and friends,

Firstly, I would like to say a big 'thank you' for the opportunity to serve as your President this year. With such a great committee and your help.

Sadly, I need to report that the orangutan release planned for late this year has been delayed and is now scheduled for early next year. This is due to a combination of events, including the discovery of TB in some release candidates, which has meant further quarantine periods are necessary. We will keep you informed and please be assured that successful releases are our number one priority.

This delay has added severe financial strain (keeping orangutans in their enclosures is costly) as well as being heartbreaking.

So our Christmas appeal is especially important in caring for the 851 orangutans in our centres. We ask for your generous support in keeping this program ticking along.

Our committee has reviewed last year's achievements and set the priorities for the one ahead. Projects we are particularly proud of are the Keeper Exchange program between Samboja Lestari and Sydney's Taronga Zoo, and the construction of the waste management system at Nyaru Menteng.

Thanks again for your support, we look forward to bringing you good news about the release in 2012.

Tony Gilding  
*President*



# Orangutan obsessed

Lucy Band was so taken by orangutans and their situation—threatened by deforestation, palm oil plantations, poaching and other dangers—that she packed her bags and headed to Borneo to see these magnificent creatures face to face.

Lucy stayed at the BOS Foundation's Samboja Lestari project in East Kalimantan and this is her story:

I arrived at Samboja Lestari late in the afternoon after some rough and ready four-wheel driving through jungle and over rock. But it was more than worth it. The project's entrance into is spectacular, as you wind your way up to the lodge orangutans are playing, swinging and relaxing in the shade.

Samboja is home to 220+ rescued orangutans (and over 50 sun bears). While some can't be released due to disease and disability, the keepers are working hard training most of them for the day they will be freed. Every day is a forest school day.

As a guest, I saw feeding times, orangutans sleeping in their nests, playing in the afternoon and could hear the calls of male orangutans at night.

If you go to Samboja as a volunteer you must stay at least 19 days and be prepared to get your hands dirty assisting with conservation activities, including maintenance of facilities, tree planting and learning about organic farming.

Visitors and volunteers stay at the Samboja Eco-Lodge run by BOS. Built amongst the treetops and made from recycled materials, this lodge is a unique holiday experience. While it's

not cheap, part of the cost is a donation to BOS Foundation to help keep up the good work.

Samboja Lestari is unlike anything else I've experienced and I can't recommend it highly enough. Bring a camera, binoculars, and plenty of mosquito repellent but don't pack a book as you'll pass hours just watching these incredible creatures. And they will do the same.



## Virtual gifts offer very real support

Can't get to the shops, or don't want to fight through the crowds... we can understand that!

These beautiful certificates are perfect for anyone not wanting to face the shopping madness and for those last minute ideas...and they're tax deductible!

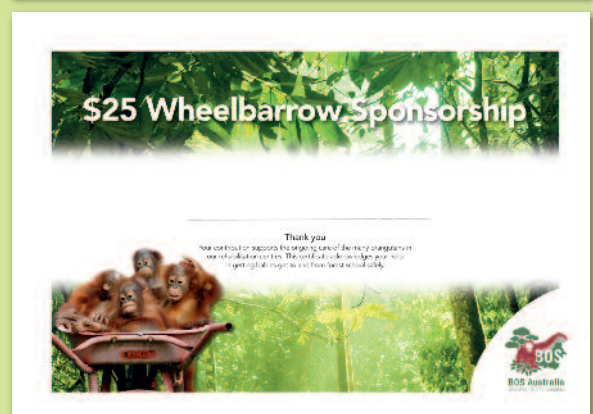
**A wheelbarrow full'o babies for just \$25.** The most original school bus! These babies just love Forest school; why not help them get there each day to learn what the need for their eventual release.

**Enrich an orphan's life for \$35.** Like any baby, keeping them busy is a full time job. Your donation will go towards toys for learning, ropes for climbing, and many other things to keep an orphan out of trouble.

**Feed an orphan for two months for \$50.** These babies need a lot of really nourishing fruit and milk to get them started on their pathway to adulthood and you can keep one orphan's tummy nice and full.

**Help an orangutan get well and stay well for \$100.** Veterinary and hospital care is really expensive but your donation can provide necessary testing for diseases, vaccinations and preventative health care, as well as ongoing worming treatments, and general check ups.

To purchase any one of these fantastic gift ideas, go to the Online shop on our website at [www.orangutans.com.au](http://www.orangutans.com.au)



► Two of our Virtual Gift certificates—with room for you to print your (or a friend's) name

# Finders keepers

Louise Grossfeldt travelled to Indonesia earlier this year to start a Keeper program with the carers in Samboja Lestarii.

Lou has been working with Taronga Zoo's primates for many years and has a wealth of knowledge to teach and share, including world class nutrition, management and enrichment strategies mainly for the orangutans that will never be free.

The team at Samboja welcomed Lou with open arms, eager to see what they could do to make their orangutans happier and healthier.

Over 200 animals call Samboja home and you can imagine the work, resources and commitment required to manage every aspect of these critically endangered great apes.

The enrichment program is focussed on the non-releasable animals as they will be residents at Samboja for the rest of their lives. As long-term illnesses or injuries make it impossible for them to fend for themselves it's important we give them a stimulating environment.

## All in a days work

Each morning begins with travelling out on the keeper boat to feed, count and visually check the animals located on the islands. "This was my favourite time of the day, as the young animals come close to the boat and stare curiously at the strange Bule (foreigner) who would appear each morning" said Lou.

After this she would head off to one of three other areas to work alongside WOX volunteers in helping the keepers and instructing them on different enrichment items.

The afternoons included using a machete to cut branches for bedding and food, and then hauling it a kilometre or so to the centre before the orangutans were due a snack and when the newly made enrichment items could be tried and tested.

## Strategy time

Lou spent a lot of time with key orangutan keepers, deciding which enrichment items to make, what worked best and how to keep it interesting over a long period.

She encouraged the keepers to look at what could be made with the resources at hand, how to incorporate different things into routines and she explained the importance of enrichment in keeping these highly intelligent animals busy and challenged.

## What's next?

Lou tells us: "This was really just the beginning. I hope to travel back to Samboja soon to set up a work experience program for the keepers so they can continue developing their skills in managing these amazing animals."

The air fares for the program are the most expensive part. Once we have the funds we will fly a couple of keepers over for work experience with the primates in Taronga Zoo for two weeks. They will then take their new skills back and teach others.

# Yeah baby!

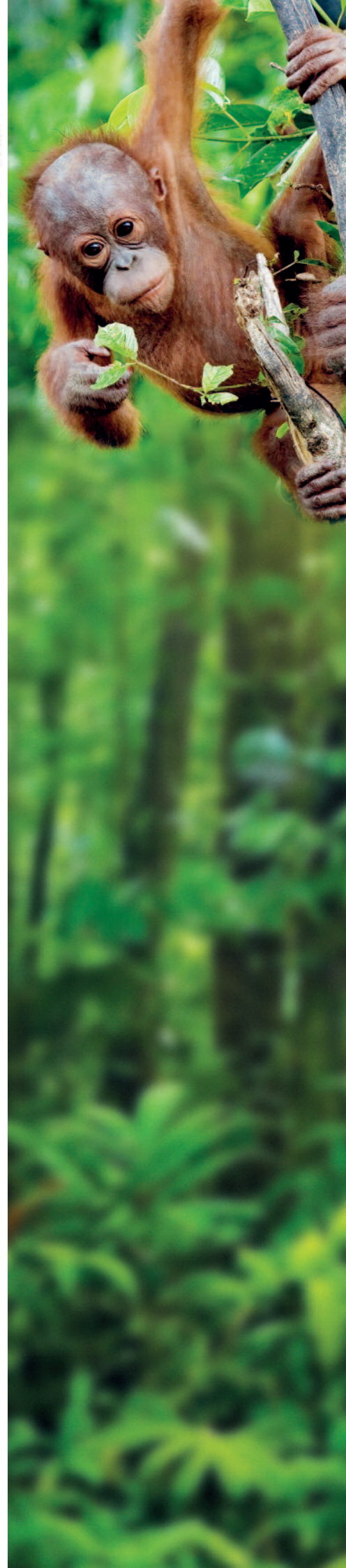
Along with Nody, Dodo and Ruthie, we can now offer you two new cuties for adoption: Nita and Miko.

Nita grew up in a human home, was fed human food (like cake and tea) and had no idea she was an orangutan until the family gave her to the staff at Nyaru Menteng. Now she is learning to climb and get into trouble with her new found orangutan friends.

Miko was found in a tiny cage, starved and dehydrated with wounds to his hands and feet.

It's no wonder he cried at night and clung to his baby-sitter for comfort. Now the little fella is a regular baby orangutan and loves his afternoon naps after much mischief.

That's Nita (left) and our mischievous Miko.



# Orange Day news

Kids all over the country are having fun with their 'Orange days'.

Sallywags Childcare Centre in Bathurst has supported us for two years and are proud adoptive sponsors of baby Dodo. In August they had an Orange Day where staff and children wore orange and ate orange food.

The children had a fun time icing orange biscuits, making orange cup cakes, and eating orange food, including sweet potato, oranges, mandarins, orange jelly and custard. Each child donated a gold coin to raise \$76.75 on the day and their fundraising will continue to renew their adoption of Dodo in December.

A big thank you to everyone at Sallywags.



# Orang-u-Friends

Wangaretta High School in Victoria took on the Orang-u-Friends challenge in October by hosting their very own Ranga Day.

The school got cooking and baking, selling sausage and biscuits while handing out free orangutan masks when students bought both.

The enthusiasm didn't stop there as the school took advantage of the education pack provided by us to discuss issues facing orangutans in the wild and how each and every one of us can help make a difference...and they did just that! They used money raised on the day to support the habitat protection program that BOS Foundation manages in Indonesia.

Well done Wangaretta High!



## We love hearing from you

We know you've been spreading the orangutan word, so why not tell us about what you're up to? Write to us at: [contact@orangutans.com.au](mailto:contact@orangutans.com.au) or post your pics on our Facebook page.

## Can you help us?

Please visit our website to donate: [orangutans.com.au](http://orangutans.com.au) or if you wish to send a cheque, please make it payable to **Borneo Orangutan Survival Australia** and send to: PO Box 3916, Mosman NSW 2088.

Perhaps the most convenient method for you is to set up a one-off or regular payment via direct debit (or your credit card): please call us on (02) 9011 5455 to arrange it.

e-Newsletter: if you prefer to save paper and get your next newsletter via email, please drop us a note at: [contact@orangutans](mailto:contact@orangutans)

Thank you for your continued support.

No BOS Australia funds are used in producing this newsletter.

